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SIEGHART, R. *Zolltrennung und Zolleinheit. Die Geschichte der österreichisch-ungarischen Zwischenzoll-Linie.* (Vienna: Manz. 1915. 12.80 M.)

VON STENGEL, F. *Zur Frage der wirtschaftlichen und zollpolitischen Einigung von Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn.* (Munich: G. D. W. Callwey. 1915. 0.75 M.)

WENHAM, M. A. *Super-tax. With special reference to the finance act, 1914.* (London: Gee. 1915. Pp. 99. 5s.)

WHITNEY, F. N. *Centralized assessment of public utilities in New York.* (New York. 1915. Pp. 12.)

The author is tax attorney of the Western Union Telegraph Company and prepared this address for the fifth state conference on taxation, held in Albany, January 15, 1915. It comprises a convenient summary of the system of taxation of public service corporations in New York.

WOLTERS, F. *Geschichte der brandenburgischen Finanzen in der Zeit von 1640-1697.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1915. Pp. 600. 20 M.)

WOLF, J. *Ein deutsch-österreichisch-ungarischer Zollverband.* (Leipzig: A. Deichert. 1915. Pp. 25. 1 M.)

Population and Migration

Negroes in the United States. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Bulletin 129. (Washington. 1915. Pp. 207.)

A more extended special report on negroes is to be issued sometime in the future. This bulletin, which is only a forerunner, is confined almost wholly to statistics of population, agriculture, mortality, and religious bodies, of which only the material on agriculture and mortality is essentially new. The population statistics have been reproduced from the federal census of 1910 and those of religious bodies from a special report of 1906. All other statistics not previously published are for the year 1910.

Significant of the economic and social status of the negroes generally is the large percentage of negroes as compared with whites gainfully employed. Taking the country as a whole, 71 per cent of all negroes ten years of age and over were gainfully employed in 1910; the percentages for the same age period by sex were 87.4 for males and 54.7 for females. The corresponding percentages for whites by sex were 77.9 and 19.2 respectively. In the Southern States the percentages of negroes gainfully employed run higher, ranging from 81.6 in Delaware to 90.6

in Alabama and Mississippi for the males and from 30.5 in West Virginia to 68.5 in Mississippi for the females. If taken at their face value these statistics are of considerable interest as a comment by inference upon the popular belief that the negro doesn't pay his own way. Statistics regarding relative wage rates for whites and negroes would have been pertinent; and also some definite information regarding comparative efficiency of the two races in the same occupations is needed.

The occupational status of the negro can in part be inferred from the statistics of the principal occupations. Fifty-six per cent of all negro males ten years of age or over gainfully employed are in agriculture, considerably more than half of this number being farm laborers. The proportion of skilled workmen is very low. More significant still is the high percentage (48.1) of the females of the same age group ranked as farm laborers. Only 3.9 per cent of the females are ranked as farmers as contrasted with 25.1 per cent of the males so ranked. Female laundresses (not in laundries) constitute 17.9 per cent of the females gainfully employed and cooks 10.2 per cent. Thus 80.1 per cent of the females of ten years or over gainfully employed fall within these four occupations, showing, as one might expect, much less diversity of occupation for the females than for the males.

Only in regard to agriculture does the report give statistics for comparison with the whites in this connection. Here we find that out of a total population of which negroes comprise 10.7 per cent they constitute 14 per cent of the total number of farm operatives. It may be inferred that this excessive percentage is in part to be accounted for by the higher percentage of negro women and children working in the fields, but statistical data for testing this assumption are lacking in the report. Apparently, negroes are engaging more extensively in agriculture than previously, for the increase among negroes in this occupation from 1900 to 1910 was 19.6 per cent, while that for the whites was only 9.5 per cent. Of course, the high percentage of negroes in the rural South accounts very largely for this discrepancy of percentages. In fact, the negro is decidedly more rural than any other class of our population. Of the negroes 72.6 per cent live in rural communities as compared with 55.8 per cent for native-born whites, 63.9 per cent for native-born whites of native

parents, and 27.8 per cent for foreign-born whites. The percentage of rural inhabitants among negroes is nearly three times as great as among foreign-born whites. But this comparison can not be particularly illuminating in its wider economic significance unless we can know the relative skill of the two classes compared.

The average size of the farms operated by whites is slightly more than three times as large as those operated by negroes, these proportions holding pretty generally for both North and South, though the average size of farms in the South is slightly smaller for both classes. Farms operated by whites, taking the country as a whole, have nearly three times as much improved land as those operated by negroes, but in the South this proportion is scarcely two to one in favor of the white operators. Farm equipment is much more plentiful for whites than for negroes. Acreage values in the South are ranked as \$26.25 and \$25.19 respectively for negroes and whites, though the comparison is decidedly the other way about in the rest of the country. Of farm operators in the South, 24 per cent of the negroes are owners as against 60.1 per cent of the whites. Here the large number of negro women and children classed as farm operatives must be taken into consideration for corrective purposes. The largest increase in the operation of farms by negroes during the last decade has been in Georgia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

The abnormally large death-rate of the negroes tends to decrease. This decrease is most noticeable where ownership of homes has increased most considerably. There has been a rapid increase of home ownership among negroes, especially in those Southern cities which have recently had marked expansion of population. The lowest sectional increase in owned farm homes for the last decade was in the West South Central division of states, though the most considerable increase in ownership of other homes was found here also. These facts should have some interest in connection with the recent investigations of tenancy by the federal Industrial Relations Commission in this section.

While Bulletin 129 is decidedly incomplete as to both topics and data, it is distinctly valuable as a labor saver for the student of the negro problem. The fuller report to be issued later promises to supply many of the omissions, particularly such as

relate to the dependent, defective, and delinquent classes, and agriculture. However, it is not likely materially to decrease the number of cross-references to other special or general census reports which the investigator will have to make for the sake of amending his data. It may not be out of place to remark that a similar special census report on immigrants would be of great value at the present time.

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Population: A Study in Malthusianism. By WARREN S. THOMPSON. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. LXIII, No. 3. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1915. Pp. 216. \$1.75.)

The century-old controversy over the theories of the Rev. Thomas Malthus is revived once more by Dr. Thompson in a dress of refreshing originality. The old method of deductive reasoning is abandoned, the theory is cleared of non-essentials, and the main thesis of the English economist is amply supported by strong statistical evidence.

The Malthusian position is thus stated by Dr. Thompson: "Although at any normal time there is food enough to keep alive all members of the population, yet it is only actual pressure upon subsistence, or fear of pressure, which keeps population from multiplying more rapidly than it actually does." This statement does not agree with the usual interpretation of the doctrine, which interpretation is based on the first edition of the *Essay*. In the sixth edition, however, Malthus made his statement decidedly less pessimistic and it is only fair to judge a writer by his most mature thought. Perhaps if Malthus were writing in more modern economic terminology he would say that a downward pressure upon the standard of living operates as a check upon the increase of population.

In presenting his statistical evidence, the author first shows by index numbers of wages and prices that real wages have fallen in the past twenty five years, not only in the United States but in all countries in which the figures are available. Statistics are then presented in regard to the production of food-stuff of all kinds, proving that the rate of increase has kept pace with the increase of population chiefly by the bringing